

credit in exchange for relinquishing the research-related losses and credits. There is growing precedent for this type of proposal among the States, several of which have enacted or are considering similar provisions to provide research companies with a current benefit from otherwise unusable tax incentives. We hope our colleagues will join us in supporting this important legislation.

#### A TRIBUTE TO ANNE BLUE

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2001*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable young woman who spent a brief sojourn on this earth, but who has left giant footprints "on the sands of time." The life of Anne Blue reminds us that the measure of a person's life is not the quantity of years, but the quality of years on this earth.

Anne Elizabeth Candace Blue was born in Georgetown Guyana on June 14, 1956 and departed this life July 5, 1993. In her 37 years of existence, she rose to the heights of academic and professional achievement. She passed the Common Entrance Examination in Guyana and attended Bishop's High School. She migrated to England and entered the London Hospital School of Nursing where she graduated as a State Registered Nurse. She migrated to the United States where she obtained the Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Hunter College and the Juris doctor degree from Hofstra Law School. She was active in various social, cultural and professional associations. She was a member of the Bishop's High School Alumni Association; founding member of the Caribbean American Bar Association; founding member of New York Reggae Music Festival Inc. She was a licensed Real Estate broker and Mortgage broker and, together with her parents John and Hyacinth Blue, she carried on a prosperous and successful Real Estate and Home Care business on Church Avenue.

Anne Blue "walked with kings, nor lost the common touch." She never lost contact with her native land and visited Guyana on an annual basis. As tribute to her patriotic and humanitarian commitment, her parents have created four Anne Blue scholarships in her memory—The Anne Blue National C.X.C. scholarship, awarded to individuals who obtained outstanding marks on the C.X.C. examination; The Anne Blue University of Guyana Law student scholarship, awarded to second year law students who obtain outstanding grades in their first year of law school; A scholarship to St. Gabriel's Elementary School, her elementary school alma mater; and a scholarship to Bishop's High School, her high school alma mater.

In the United States, the Anne Blue Scholarship Fund is sponsoring Project Amethyst, an academic enrichment program designed to help students to help students prepare for the specialized High School Admissions examinations. The participants begin the program in the 7th grade and continue through the 8th grade. They attend classes for four hours on

Saturday's where qualified teachers tutor them in the areas of English, Mathematics, Biology and Computer Science.

In paying tribute to Anne Blue, we also pay tribute to her remarkable parents, John Blue and Hyacinth Blue, who transformed their pain into triumph by preserving and perpetuating the memory of their remarkable daughter. They have named their Real Estate and Home Care business establishments in her honor, and have created a Scholarship fund, which opens the door of academic opportunity to underprivileged young people in Guyana and Central Brooklyn. In the words of Horace, "exegit monumentum, perennius aere"—they have built a monument more lasting than bronze.

#### FEDERAL FIRE FIGHTERS DESERVE HEALTH BENEFITS

### HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2001*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of thousands of federal fire fighters and emergency response personnel nationwide who, at great risk to their own personal health and safety, protect America's defense, our veterans, Federal wildlands and national treasures. Although the majority of these important federal employees work for the Department of Defense, federal fire fighters are also employed by the Department of Veteran Affairs, and the United States Park Service. From first-response emergency care services on military installations around the world to front-line defense against raging forest fires here at home, we call on these brave men and women to protect our national interests.

Yet under federal law, compensation and retirement benefits are not provided to federal employees who suffer from occupational illnesses unless they can specify the conditions of employment which caused their disease. This onerous requirement makes it nearly impossible for federal fire fighters, who suffer from occupational diseases, to receive fair and just compensation or retirement benefits. The bureaucratic nightmare they must endure is burdensome, unnecessary and, in many cases, overwhelming. It is ironic and unjust that the very people we call on to protect our federal interests are not afforded the very best in health care and retirement benefits our federal government has to offer.

Today, Representatives CONNIE MORELLA (R-MD), JO ANN DAVIS (R-VA), and LOIS CAPPS (D-CA) joined me to introduce bipartisan legislation, the Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2001, which amends the Federal Employees Compensation Act to create a presumptive disability for fire fighters who become disabled by heart and lung disease, cancers such as leukemia and lymphoma, and infectious diseases like tuberculosis and hepatitis. Disabilities related to the cancers, heart, lung and infectious diseases enumerated in this important legislation would be considered job related for purposes of workers compensation and disability retirement—entitling those affected to the health care coverage and retirement benefits they deserve.

Too frequently, the poisonous gases, toxic byproducts, asbestos, and other hazardous substances with which federal firefighters and emergency response personnel come in contact, rob them of their health, livelihood, and professional careers. The federal government should not rob them of necessary benefits.

The bipartisan effort behind the Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2001 marks a significant advancement for fire fighter health and safety. Federal firefighters deserve our highest commendation and it is time to do the right thing for these important federal employees.

Thirty-eight states have already enacted a similar disability presumption law for federal firefighters' counterparts working in similar capacities on the state and local levels. The Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2001 is about parity for federal fire fighters; the same level of support provided to other important groups, such as teachers and police officers, should also be granted to these dedicated federal employees.

Mr. Speaker, the job of fire fighting continues to be complex and dangerous. The nationwide increase in the use of hazardous materials and the recent rise in both natural and man-made disasters pose new threats to fire fighter health and safety. The Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2001 will help protect the lives of our fire fighters and it will provide them with a vehicle to secure their health and safety.

I urge my colleagues to embrace this bipartisan effort and support the Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2001 on behalf of our nation's federal fire fighters and emergency response personnel.

#### SENSATIONAL SOCCER IN THE 6TH DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

### HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2001*

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, On May 26, the Sixth District of North Carolina became the home of the 3-A state championship girls soccer team—Southwest Guilford High School. The Cowgirls completed their victory run with a season record of 24-3. After winning state championships in 1995 and 1997, the team brought the title home again when they beat T.C. Robeson 4-1.

With a team that has the Regional Player of the Year Erin Sides, All-State Player and leading goal scorer Kelly Whitaker, Conference Defender of the Year Lauren Field, and Erin Gonzalez as the All-State Stopper, Southwest Guilford had a leading advantage in capturing the 3-A state title.

The Cowgirls won all five state championship title games. The final game was a scoreless tie at halftime. But the team remained united and was ready for the second half.

"We said at halftime, whoever scored that first goal is going to win the game," sweeper Lauren Field, one of three captains, told the High Point Enterprise.

The Cowgirls' Erin Sides, scored their first goal, only two minutes into the second half. Laura Allen drilled another goal three minutes